

What is claimed is:

1. A method for transferring data between first and second data processing applications, both of which operate on said data, said method comprised of
5 the steps of:

measuring a first data transfer metric for a first data transfer pathway between said first process and said second process;

measuring said first data transfer metric for a second data transfer pathway between said first process and said second process;

10 comparing the first data transfer metric for the first pathway to the first data transfer metric for the second pathway;

selecting one of said first and second data transfer pathways for subsequent data transfers based upon the result of said step of comparing, and upon at least one user-specified data transfer rule.

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2. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways are comprised of at least one computer program.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second
20 data transfer pathways is a physical transmission media.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one user specified data transfer rule includes at least one of: a data transmission pathway data transfer rate; a data transmission pathway cost; a data transmission pathway processing overhead.

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5. A method for transferring data between first and second data processors which operate on said data, said method comprised of the steps of:

measuring a first data transfer metric for a first data transfer pathway between said first processor and said second processor;

30 measuring said first data transfer metric for a second data transfer pathway between said first processor and said second processor;

comparing the first data transfer metric for the first pathway to the first data transfer metric for the second pathway;

selecting one of said first and second data transfer pathways for subsequent data transfers between said first and second processors based upon the result of said
5 step of comparing, and upon at least one user-specified data transfer rule.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways are comprised of at least one computer program.

10 7. The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways is a physical transmission media.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein said at least one user specified data transfer rule includes at least one of: a data transmission pathway data transfer rate; a
15 data transmission pathway cost; a data transmission pathway processing overhead.

9. A method for transferring data between first and second data processing applications, both of which operate on said data, said method comprised of the steps of:

20 measuring first and second data transfer metrics for a first data transfer pathway between said first process and said second process;

comparing said first and second data transfer metrics;

selecting first data pathway for subsequent data transfers based upon the result of said comparing and upon at least one user-specified data transfer rule
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10. The method of claim 9 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways are comprised of at least one computer program.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein at least one of said first and second
30 data transfer pathways is a physical transmission media.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein said at least one user specified data transfer rule includes at least one of: a data transmission pathway data transfer rate; a data transmission pathway cost; a data transmission pathway processing overhead.

5 13. A computer system that minimizes data transfer operations, comprising:

a data network having a plurality of data transfer pathways through which data is transferred;

at least first and second processors coupled to said network;

10 a data transfer manager coupled to the first and second processors and coupled to the data network, said data transfer manager determining data transfer metrics of a plurality of data transfer pathways through said network, said data transfer manager determining the data transfer pathways through said network through which subsequent data transfers occur.

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14. The computer system of claim 13 wherein the predetermined data transfer manager limits transfer of data requested based on at least one of the preselected transfer attributes.

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15. The computer system of claim 13 wherein said data transfer manager is a computer.

16. The computer system of claim 13 wherein said data transfer manager is a computer program.

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